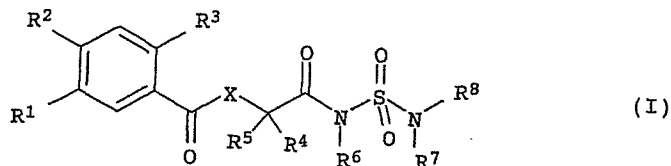


# Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## Listing of Claims:

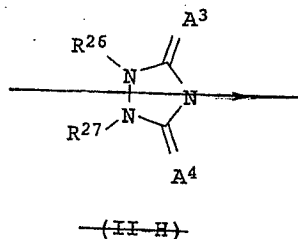
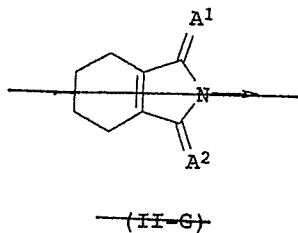
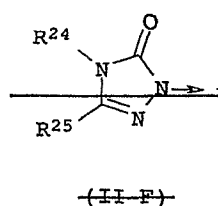
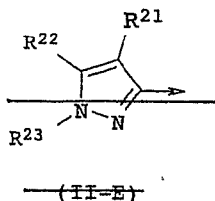
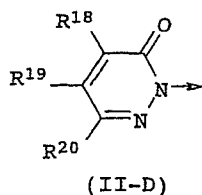
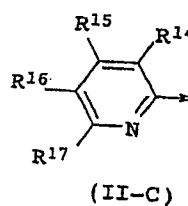
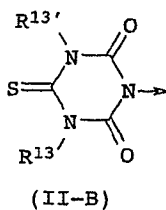
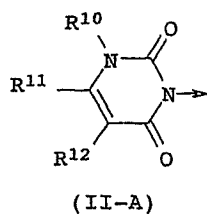
1. (Currently Amended) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula I



wherein:

X is oxygen or NR<sup>9</sup>,

R<sup>1</sup> is a heterocyclic radical of the formulae II-A to ~~[[II-H]]~~ II-D,



R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or halogen,

R<sup>3</sup> is halogen or cyano,

R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> independently of one another are hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl  
or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, or R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> together are a group =CH<sub>2</sub>,

R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy,

R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup> independently of one another are hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl,

C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylthio-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfinyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfonyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

cyano-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

amino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl) amino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

aminocarbonyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylamino)carbonyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl)aminocarbonyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

phenyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylphenyl or

~~R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> together with the nitrogen atom to which they are~~

~~attached form a saturated or unsaturated 3, 4, 5, 6~~

~~or 7 membered nitrogen heterocycle which may optionally~~

~~contain one or two further heteroatoms selected from the~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen as ring~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ members, which may contain 1 or 2 carbonyl and/or~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ thiocarbonyl groups as ring members and/or which may be~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ substituted by one, two or three substituents selected~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl and halogen,~~

R<sup>9</sup> is hydrogen, hydroxyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, phenyl,  
phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl,

R<sup>10</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or amino,

R<sup>11</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl,

R<sup>12</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>13'</sup> independently of one another are hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

R<sup>14</sup> is halogen,

R<sup>15</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

R<sup>16</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylthio,  
C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfonyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfonyloxy,

R<sup>17</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

R<sup>18</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or amino,

R<sup>19</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylthio or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfonyl,

R<sup>20</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

R<sup>21</sup> is hydrogen, halogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

~~R<sup>22</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylthio or~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfonyl,~~

$R^{23}$  is hydrogen or  $C_1-C_4$ -alkyl,

or

$R^{22}$  and  $R^{23}$  together with the atoms to which they are attached form a 5-, 6- or  
7-membered saturated or unsaturated ring which may contain a heteroatom  
selected from the group consisting of oxygen and nitrogen as a ring-forming  
atom and/or which may be substituted by one, two or three radicals selected  
from the group consisting of  $C_1-C_4$ -alkyl and halogen,

$R^{24}$  is hydrogen,  $C_1-C_4$ -alkyl or  $C_1-C_4$ -haloalkyl,

$R^{25}$  is  $C_1-C_4$ -alkyl or  $C_1-C_4$ -haloalkyl,

or

$R^{24}$  and  $R^{25}$  together with the atoms to which they are attached form a 5-, 6- or  
7-membered saturated or unsaturated ring which optionally contains an oxygen  
atom as ring-forming atom and/or which may be substituted by one, two or three  
radicals selected from the group consisting of  $C_1-C_4$ -alkyl and halogen,

$R^{26}$  is hydrogen,  $C_1-C_4$ -alkyl or  $C_1-C_4$ -haloalkyl,

$R^{27}$  is hydrogen,  $C_1-C_4$ -alkyl or  $C_1-C_4$ -haloalkyl,

or

$R^{26}$  and  $R^{27}$  together with the atoms to which they are attached form a 5-, 6- or  
7-membered saturated or unsaturated ring which optionally contains an oxygen  
atom as ring-forming atom and/or which may be substituted by one, two or three  
radicals selected from the group consisting of  $C_1-C_4$ -alkyl and halogen,

$A^1, A^2, A^3, A^4$  are each independently of one another oxygen or sulfur,

or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid compound as claimed in claim 1 where  $R^2$  is ~~[[10]]~~ fluorine, chlorine or hydrogen.

3. (Previously Presented) A benzoic acid compound as claimed in claim 1 where  $R^3$  is chlorine or cyano.

4. (Previously Presented) A benzoic acid compound as claimed in claim 1 where X is oxygen.

5. (Previously Presented) A benzoic acid compound as claimed in claim 1 where  $R^6$  is hydrogen.

6. (Previously Presented) A benzoic acid compound as claimed in claim 1 where  $R^1$  is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-A in which  $R^{10}$  is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or amino,  $R^{11}$  is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl and  $R^{12}$  is hydrogen.

7. (Previously Presented) A benzoic acid compound as claimed in claim 1 where  $R^1$  is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-B in which  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{13'}$  are each independently of one another C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl.

8. (Previously Presented) A benzoic acid compound as claimed in claim 1 where R<sup>1</sup> is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-C in which R<sup>14</sup> is fluorine or chlorine, R<sup>15</sup> is hydrogen and R<sup>16</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfonyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfonyloxy.

9. (Previously Presented) A benzoic acid compound as claimed in claim 1 where R<sup>1</sup> is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-D in which R<sup>18</sup> is hydrogen, methyl or amino, R<sup>19</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfonyl and R<sup>20</sup> is hydrogen.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A benzoic acid compound as claimed in claim 1 where

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, chlorine or fluorine,

R<sup>3</sup> is chlorine or cyano,

R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen and

X is oxygen.

15. (Previously Presented) A benzoic acid compound as claimed in claim 1 where  $R^4$  or  $R^5$  is hydrogen and the other radical  $R^4$  or  $R^5$  is  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl or  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  are each methyl.
16. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a herbicidally effective amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt thereof as claimed in claim 1 and at least one inert liquid and/or solid carrier and, if desired, at least one surfactant.
17. (Previously Presented) A composition for the desiccation/defoliation of plants, comprising an effective amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt thereof as claimed in claim 1 which acts as a desiccant/defoliant and at least one inert liquid and/or solid carrier and, if desired, at least one surfactant.
18. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling unwanted vegetation, which comprises allowing a herbicidally effective amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt thereof as claimed in claim 1 to act on plants, their habitat and/or on seed.
19. (Previously Presented) A method for the desiccation/defoliation of plants, which comprises allowing an amount which is effective as a desiccant/defoliant of at least one

3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt thereof as claimed in claim 1 to act on plants.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling unwanted vegetation or for the desiccation/defoliation of plants, comprising applying to plants, the habitat of the plants or seeds of the plants an agriculturally effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 1.